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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Hague, 23 August 1995

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you of the decision of the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to fully resume the bilateral cooperation with the government of the Republic of Rwanda. I have already informed the Netherlands parliament accordingly.

Your Excellency, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you with your speech at the mid term review of the Round Table Conference, held in Kigali on 6 - 7 July 1995. I would have wished to have been able to attend this important gathering myself, but discussions concerning the development cooperation budget kept me tied up in the Netherlands. I have however received a full report of this conference from my delegation, including a copy of your speech. This speech very lucidly sets out the principles of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda with regard to the return of refugees, internal security, the rehabilitation of the judicial system, the democratization process, the respect for fundamental liberties, the property rights issue, the creation of a national army and national reconciliation. Although the progress made since the Round Table Conference in January 1995 in Geneva has perhaps not been without interruptions, your speech illustrated that it is nevertheless impressive.

It has been over a year since your Government was able to bring to an end the genocide. The Netherlands is committed to the rehabilitation of the country and has, since January 1995, set aside almost 50 million dollars for

His Excellency Mr. Faustin Twagiramungu
Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda

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this purpose. A large part of the Netherlands contribution to the reconstruction and rehabilitation is channelled through the UNDP Trust Fund for overall government expenditures, including non-traditional development expenditures such as salaries. I refer to the enclosed overview for more details.

In the process of rehabilitation the Government of Rwanda has taken various steps to ensure the handing over of tasks from the military to the civilian authorities. I would like to express my sincere hope that your Government will soon be in a position to nominate civilian mayors. As I have repeatedly stated, I consider the creation of civilian rule to be crucial for the future of Rwanda. At the mid term review my delegation announced a contribution of 1,7 million dollars to the training programme for the communal police, to be executed jointly by UNDP and the Ministry of Interior. I have indicated to minister of Interior Sendashonga my willingness to consider further contributions to the strengthening of the civil administration in Rwanda. In various discussions with me vice-president and minister of Defence Kagame elaborated on the challenges faced by the military, who will have to redefine their role in a civilian society. It is therefore that the Netherlands, through the Trust Fund, also provides support for the trainingschool of the national gendarmerie in Ruhengeri.

My government is adamant to support the Rwandan Government in their endeavours to attain national reconciliation: Rehabilitation of the judicial system and the integration of the refugees in civil society are prerequisites for lasting national reconciliation. You will be aware that the Netherlands development programme in Rwanda is centered around these two pillars. I have had the pleasure of meeting minister of Justice Nkubito on several occasions and I was struck by the immensity of the problems he faces to try and convict the suspected perpetrators of the genocide. Since the Round Table Conference, the Netherlands has committed over 17 million dollars to the rehabilitation of the judicial system, including the improvement of the living conditions in the prisons. The minister of Justice can count on the continued support of my government to achieve his difficult task.

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At the mid term review, the Netherlands delegation pledged 10 million dollars in support of the programme for the resettlement of refugees. It is hoped that the Netherlands contribution may kick-start the execution of the Plan of Action drawn up by minister of Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration Bihozagara. The magnitude of the resettlement programme calls for close collaboration with relevant UN-agencies, such as UNHCR and UNDP. I am willing to consider further contributions to the resettlement programme.

Your Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

The minister for Development Cooperation,

J.P. Pronk

Copy to:

H.E. President P. Bizimungu
H.E. Vice-President and minister of Defence Gen.Maj.
P. Kagame

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